

28 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 7 Careers Programme Launch



THE WEALD COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM'S CAREERS THEMES



I hope you and your Year 7 child(ren) have had a successful first term with us and an enjoyable and restful break over the half term holidays.

In their year group assembly today, I met with Year 7 students to introduce them to The Weald's careers programme, and the careers themes they will be progressing through whilst studying with us (as visualised in the image above). This is part of our commitment towards implementing the Gatsby Benchmarks of good careers guidance and our associated statutory duties to be providing students with careers education, information, advice, and guidance from Year 7 onwards.

During this launch assembly, we explored the concept of 'careers' and the benefits of starting to invest in and investigate this from Year 7, including:

- Exploring study and job interests, values, and aspirations
- Developing employability competencies (e.g. knowledge, skills, qualities)
- Being provided with opportunities to learn about, and challenge, oneself
- Collecting records about one's achievements to help with future careers planning

Please <u>click here</u> to view the slides that were delivered. Additionally, more details about The Weald's careers programme, which includes the different types of careers activities students are scheduled to undertake during each careers theme, is published on The Weald's Careers Site (<u>click here</u>). Our Careers Site hosts a range of labour market information to support both students and their parents and carers with exploring and researching career options.

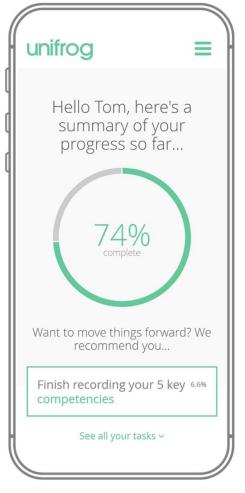


A specific area we focused on in this week's assembly was <u>Unifrog</u>, an online destinations platform The Weald uses with students across our careers programme to support them with researching their study and employment interests.

One of the first things Year 7 students will be doing as part of The Weald's careers programme (and will be continuing to work on across each of their careers themes), is adding records to their Unifrog activities and competencies logs.

Progressively adding to these can provide students with regular opportunities to reflect on their achievements inside and outside of school, and collect a body of evidence to demonstrate the employability skills they have developed over time. This can, in turn, be used by students to support their next steps after Year 11 and Year 13, including applying for apprenticeships, employment, and further and higher education studies.

Year 7 students can start using Unifrog straight away; they have been set up with a Unifrog login and sent an email via their Weald email address to create their password in order to do so.



If you have any questions about The Weald's careers programme, please email me via careers@theweald.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Miss K O'Brien Careers Manager